1706-9 Pland

A full and true Account

Of the Tryal, Examination, and Condemnation of

Mary Johnſon a Witch.

At the Aſſizes held at Coventry *on* Saturday July *the* 27th, *by the honourable* J. Trevers, *and Baron* Priſe, *for Bewitching ſeveral Men, Women, Children and Cattle, of which ſeveral Died, through her helliſh Malice, the moſt Unaccountable, Violenteſt and ſtrangeſt Deaths as ever was known, and alſo Committing her deviliſh Envy on her Husband and two of her own Children who for fourteen Days lay under moſt intollerable Pains and great Miſery, and then departed this Life.*

ON *Saturday, July* the 27th laſt paſt, the abovenamed Judges appointed for the Midland Circuit, coming to the City of *Coventry* in *Warwickſhire*, they there open'd their Commiſſions, and then the Court being Sat, the Tryals of the ſeveral Priſoners came on, the moſt particular of which was that one *Mary Johnſon* a Witch, which is as follows.

Her Indictment being read, the Subſtance of which contained not only ſeveral Murders which ſhe had committed on ſeveral Men, Women, and Children, and Cattle, through Witchcraft, but alſo had committed the like diabolical Barbarity on her Husband *Mark Johnſon*, and two of her own female Children, with many other unheard of Miſchiefs up and down the Country; to which Indictment ſhe pleaded not guilty; whereupon the Evidence being Sworn, the firſt Mr. *William Groſthead* a Mercer in *Coventry* depoſed, that the ſaid *Mary Johnſon* coming to his Houſe one Day with pretence to buy ſomething, he hearing her Character, turn'd her out of Doors, at which ſhe was in a great Rage, uttering ſeveral bitter Imprecations, and ſaying the Child in his Arms ſhould not be well long, which was a Boy of about three Year old, and accordingly the Child within an hour after was took with ſtrange Convulſions, bleeding ſtrangely at the Noſe, Mouth, and Ears till next Morning, and then Died.

The next Evidence, one Mrs. *Elizabeth Wilſon* depoſed, that the Priſoner came one Morning to her Houſe to borrow ten Shillings of her Husband which he refuſing to lend her, ſhe went away in a great Paſſion, Swearing ſhe would be Reveng'd on him before to morrow Morning, and in the Evening her Husband was ſiez'd with Contractions in his Face till his Eyes ſeem'd to ſtart out of his Head, his Noſe extended in ſeveral Forms, and his Mouth was drawn almoſt to his Ears; all which Diſaſters was follow'd with a violent Vomiting of Water and Blood, of which he died in three Hours.

The third Evidence, *John Maſſy* a Shoemaker, depoſed that his Wife meeting the Priſoner one Night in the Street, ſhe would have talk'd with his Wife, but bidding her go about her Buſineſs, ſaying ſhe deſired not to Converſe with ſuch as Convers'd with the Devil, ſhe call'd his Wife all the Names ſhe could think on, and then bid her go Home, for ſhe ſhould go abroad no more, accordingly his Wife came home in a great Fright, and going to Bed ſhivering as if ſhe had an Ague, after it ceas'd, ſhe was took with a violent Burning, then ſhe was ſiezed with ſuch an exceſſive Looſneſs, avoiding nothing but Blood, that in three Days time it Kill'd her.

Another Evidence, Mr. *John Edwards* a Farmer, depoſed, that the Priſoner coming to his Houſe one Day to beg ſome Milk when he was abroad, the Servants refu'sd giving her any, at which ſhe ſaid their Maſter ſhould pay for it, and accordingly going into his Stable in the Evening, he there found a whole Teem of Cattle Dead, which were all Alive and well in the Morning, and had been abroad with a Cart of Corn to *Coventry* Market.

The fifth Evidence, Mr. *William Halſey* a Victualler, depoſed that living not far off from the Priſoner, and wondring he had not ſeen her Husband and two Children for ſix or ſeven Days, he with two or three Neighbours ſuppoſing ſomewhat more than ordinary went to the Priſoner's Houſe, where to their great Aſtoniſhment, they ſaw her Husband and two Children, one a Girle of eight, the other a Girle of five Year old, all in one Bed together, lying in a moſt languiſhing and terrible Condition. For they were worn to Anatomies, the Father vomiting Pins and Needles in great abundance out of the Mouth, the eldeſt Girle avoiding Pins and Needles, ſome ſtraight ſome Crooked, out at the Nose and Ears, and the youngeſt Girle moſt ſtrangely bleeding at the Mouth, Noſe, Ears, and Fundament, to the great Amazement of ſeveral other Spectators, who went to ſee this dreadful Spectacle, after Mr. *Halſey*'s divulging it abroad, and in this Condition they lay for about fourteen Days and then Died. In fine, many were the other Evidences that depos'd againſt the Priſoner, for ſeveral other helliſh Pranks ſhe had play'd up down the Country, as afflicting People with ſullen Ails, ſtrikeing Cattle Lame, and deſtroying their Poultry; to all which ſhe could ſay little or nothing in her Defence, whereupon the Jury brought her in Guilty of Witchcraft, and the Court accordingly paſt Sentence upon her, and order'd her to be Burnt. Which Puniſhment is to be Inflicted upon her at *Coventry* on *Saturday* the third of this Inſtant *Auguſt*.